

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. Key Information

Programme Title:	Master of Laws
Awarding Institution:	Buckinghamshire New University
Teaching Institution(s):	Buckinghamshire New University
Subject Cluster:	Law
Award Title (including separate Pathway Award Titles where offered):	LLM Intellectual Property Law LLM International Commercial Law LLM International Human Rights Law
Pathways (if applicable)	LLM Intellectual Property and Law LLM International Commercial Law LLM International Human Rights Law
FHEQ level of final award:	7
Other award titles available (exit qualifications):	Postgraduate Certificate Law Postgraduate Diploma Law
Accreditation details:	
Length of programme:	1 year
Mode(s) of Study:	Full Time
Mode of Delivery:	In person (on-site) delivery
Language of study:	English
QAA Subject Benchmark(s):	
Other external reference points (e.g. Apprenticeship Standard):	
Course Code(s):	MLMLAWFT
UCAS Code(s):	
Approval date:	1 December 2022
Date of last update:	

2. Programme Summary

The LLM programme is a specialised postgraduate level qualification in law. It is designed for students who already possess an undergraduate law degree (or equivalent) and wish to continue their legal studies at a post-graduate level. Successful completion of an LLM programme will enable a student to broaden their legal knowledge and experience gained in undergraduate study and legal practice and develop problem solving skills that enable them to exercise sound judgement in complex, uncertain and new environments; gain specialised knowledge to pursue a wide range of legal and non-legal careers; grow networks and

enhance employability in pursuit of a successful legal career. Depending on the pathway (International Commercial Law, Intellectual Property Law, International Human Rights Law), students will complete 120 credits from the full selection of modules available, plus a 60-credit dissertation. Guidance and support on choosing a dissertation topic will be provided through workshops and one-to-one supervision support. Students will have the opportunity to be awarded a specialised LLM in one of the following pathways: Intellectual Property Law; International Commercial Law; International Human Rights. All pathways will have a common structure and will require completion of a requisite number of modules, together with the independent research dissertation on a topic related to the specialist pathway being undertaken.

3. Programme Aims and Learning Outcomes

Programme Aims

This programme aims to:

1. Deepen and broaden the students' knowledge of law by enabling them to acquire a systemic understanding of legal processes, methods and concepts, within social, commercial and political contexts
2. Enhance students' professional development and academic potential and problem-solving skills by acquiring a systematic and critical understanding of the complex legal, economic, cultural and political issues informing English and international regulations
3. Enable students to acquire the necessary tools to apply their acquired knowledge, legal research and writing skills to the process of writing a dissertation producing an original piece of research
4. Equip students with transferable research and writing skills applicable to a variety of professional sectors, including the legal profession, corporate and commercial industries, government bodies or academia
5. Equip students with the skills to understand specialist legal issues and communicate such knowledge clearly with specialist and non-specialist audiences

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding (K)

On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
K1	Analyse contemporary legal problems and also complex issues arising from practical scenarios.
K2	Critically evaluate the principles of the areas of law in the chosen pathways and study their relevance in contemporary legal systems.
K3	Analyse complex texts, construct arguments and communicate these effectively.
K4	Systematically understand the impact of specialised rules and mechanisms available for the resolution of disputes of a transnational nature.
K5	Apply practical transferrable skills, including how to locate relevant materials.

Analysis and Criticality (C)

On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
C1	Apply reasoned choice between alternative solutions and critical judgement to various legal scenarios.
C2	Exhibit independence of thought and the ability to analyse and challenge complex legal debates.
C3	Identify issues and formulate questions for further research through independent work.
C4	Impart your previous experience and knowledge in addressing legal issues in an interdisciplinary approach.
C5	Demonstrate thoroughness in analysis and assessment of legal arguments.

Application and Practice (P)

On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
P1	Apply knowledge and understanding to offer evidenced conclusions for addressing complex legal problems over a vast range of legal areas.
P2	Identify contemporary debates and present a reasoned choice between alternative solutions for solving legal problems.
P3	Demonstrate initiative, personal responsibility, time management, and independent learning, collaboratively and competitively.
P4	Demonstrate competence in the application of detailed rules and related practice required for advanced legal knowledge.
P5	Demonstrate a systematic awareness of the interactions between law and globalisation in research and practice.

Transferable skills and other attributes (T)

On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

ID	Learning Outcome
T1	Employ appropriate socio-legal analysis by reasoning and problem-solving skills to arrive at solutions in related society.
T2	Demonstrate initiative, personal responsibility, time management, and independent learning, collaboratively and competitively.
T3	Recognise, evaluate and resolve ethical dilemmas in legal and other professions.
T4	Demonstrate a pro-active approach, taking responsibility and assuming leadership for mutual learning and well-being in working with a team.
T5	Successfully analyse situations and collaborate effectively with others on a variety of legal issues.

Graduate Attributes

The BNU Graduate Attributes of: Knowledge and its application; Creativity; Social and ethical awareness and responsibility; and Leadership and self-development focus on the development of innovative leaders in professional and creative capacities, who are equipped to operate in the 21st Century labour market and make a positive impact as global citizens.

On this programme, attributes are developed through the practical application of contemporary socio-legal curriculum to the development of knowledge and understanding of theories, concepts, values and principles of law within society and social constructs thereby fostering the ability to apply learning in diverse contexts (K1-5, C1-3,P2-3,5). The attributes of leadership and creativity are harnessed and fostered through an innovative and competent approach using teaching methods and learning activities designed to impart leadership, communication and problem-solving skills (C1-2, P1-5, T2-5). Students are developed to be highly employable by fostering the attributes of social and ethical awareness and responsibility through ensuring an understanding of the complexities of socio-legal concepts, rules and principles and an understanding of the values of justice and rule of law to the foundations of society.(K1-4, C1-4, P2-3) These attributes of leadership and self-development are nurtured through equipping students with skills and understanding that nurture empathy, integrity and citizenship that are transferable to various disciplines and careers(P3-5, T1-5)

4. Entry Requirements

The University's [general entry requirements](#) will apply to admission to this programme with the following additions / exceptions:

- A first degree in Law (or a subject in a related discipline, such as Business, Accountancy and Finance, Economics, Politics, International Relations) at a minimum of 2:2, or an overseas qualification which is equivalent to a UK Honours degree, minimum 2:2 classification.
- A Postgraduate Diploma in Law or in a cognate discipline, or other international equivalent

If you do not meet the entry requirements you may, if you have relevant professional experience, still be invited for interview, where you will be required to demonstrate the necessary knowledge and understanding for entry onto the course.

Previous study, professional and / or vocational experiences may be recognised as the equivalent learning experience and permit exemption from studying certain modules in accordance with our [accreditation of prior learning](#) (APL) process.

5. Programme Structure

LLM Intellectual Property Law

Level	Modules (Code, Title and Credits)	Exit Awards
Level 7	<p>Core modules:</p> <p>LAW7002 Contemporary Issues in Law (20 credits) LAW7006 International Intellectual Property Law (20 credits) LAW7003 Structured Independent Work (60 credits)</p> <p>Option modules: Choose modules to the total of 80 credits (4 Modules):</p> <p>LAW7007 Intellectual Property Law and Technology (20 credits) LAW7008 Electronic Commerce and Digital Trade (20 credits) LAW7009 International Law (20 credits) LAW7010 International Commercial Dispute Resolution (20 credits) LAW7011 Competition Law (20 credits) LAW7012 International Trade (20 credits)</p> <p>Opportunity modules: No Opportunity modules are available at this level.</p>	<p>Honours Degree: PgCert awarded on the achievement of 60 credits, PgDip awarded on the achievement of 120 credits and LLM Intellectual Property Law awarded on the full completion of 180 credits.</p>

LLM International Commercial Law

Level	Modules (Code, Title and Credits)	Exit Awards
Level 7	<p>Core modules:</p> <p>LAW7002 Contemporary Issues in Law (20 credits) LAW7004 International Commercial Law (20 credits) LAW7003 Structured Independent Work (60 credits)</p>	<p>PgCert awarded on the achievement of 60 credits, PgDip awarded on the achievement of 120 credits and LLM International Commercial Law awarded on the full completion of 180 credits.</p>

	<p>Option modules: Choose modules to the total of 80 credits (4 Modules):</p> <p>LAW7007 Intellectual Property Law and Technology (20 credits) LAW7008 Electronic Commerce and Digital Trade (20 credits) LAW7009 International Law (20 credits) LAW7010 International Commercial Dispute Resolution (20 credits) LAW7011 Competition Law (20 credits) LAW7012 International Trade (20 credits)</p> <p>Opportunity modules: No Opportunity modules are available at this level.</p>	
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LLM International Human Rights Law

Level	Modules (Code, Title and Credits)	Exit Awards
Level 7	<p>Core modules:</p> <p>LAW7002 Contemporary Issues in Law (20 credits) LAW7005 International Human Rights (20 credits) LAW7003 Structured Independent Work (60 credits)</p> <p>Option modules: Choose modules to the total of 80 credits (4 Modules):</p> <p>LAW7007 Intellectual Property Law and Technology (20 credits) LAW7008 Electronic Commerce and Digital Trade (20 credits) LAW7009 International Law (20 credits) LAW7010 International Commercial Dispute Resolution (20 credits) LAW7011 Competition Law (20 credits) LAW7012 International Trade (20 credits)</p>	<p>Honours Degree: PgCert awarded on the achievement of 60 credits, PgDip awarded on the achievement of 120 credits and LLM International Human Rights Law awarded on the full completion of 180 credits.</p>

	Opportunity modules: No Opportunity modules are available at this level.	
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Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year. Other option modules may also be introduced at a later stage enabling the programme to respond to changes in the subject area.

6. Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Learning and teaching

The programme is a taught programme of study, either one year full-time, or two years part-time. Students will have the opportunity to study a specialised LLM in one of the following pathways: Intellectual Property Law; International Commercial Law and International Human Rights. The pathways have a common structure and will require completion of a requisite number of modules, together with the independent research dissertation on a topic related to the specialist pathway being undertaken.

Class sessions will comprise of small group teaching, with an expectation of prior preparation, attendance and engagement. LLM students are expected to read widely and to engage with a variety of legal sources, including case law reports, statutes, academic and professional journals, and other legislative, government and institutional documents. Seminars will be in small groups, allowing for an integrated, interactive, learning experience. Students are required to prepare for, and participate in, seminars, in order to obtain the maximum benefit from the seminars.

A variety of teaching methods are employed to deliver the modules and creating opportunities for formative assessment throughout the programme. These will include lectures, seminars, workshops, and individual and group oral presentations in order to promote a personalised learning that considers the individual student's interests, needs and abilities.

Programmes are structured in stages. The number of stages will vary depending on the mode (e.g., full-time, part-time), duration and location of study which will be detailed in the Programme Handbook.

Modules are set at a specific academic level and listed as either core (compulsory) or optional. The number of credits will depend on the complexity of the module and the level of effort required, which is measured in 'notional learning hours'.

Assessment

Students will be administered formative and summative assessments designed to test the achievement of module learning outcomes. Although the formative assessments do not contribute marks towards the final module grade, they offer learners a valuable learning resource by way of feedback from the tutors, which can offer direction for improved performance on the summative assignments.

A range of summative assessment methods will be employed on this course, as follows:

Essay Coursework/ Reflective Report will provide the opportunity for learners to demonstrate in-depth understanding of a particular aspect of their learning. It will encourage them to engage in conducting a systematic literature review and provide the opportunity for them to demonstrate their capacity to critically analyse, synthesis and evaluate the principles, processes and debates inherent in the material, and to present a rational, coherent, information-based argument.

Dissertation which represents a major piece of independent research focused on pertinent legal issues chosen by the learner and undertaken at the end of the LLM programme. This

will be undertaken with support from an academic supervisor and with regular meetings once the dissertation writing commences.

Contact Hours

Learners can expect to receive up to 12 hours of scheduled learning activities per week. This may include lectures, seminars or workshops. A full breakdown of contact hours can be found in individual module descriptors.

7. Programme Regulations

This programme will be subject to the following assessment regulations:

- Academic Assessment Regulations

8. Support for learners

The following systems are in place to support you to be successful with your studies:

- The appointment of a personal tutor to support you through your programme
- A programme handbook and induction at the beginning of your studies
- Library resources, include access to books, journals and databases - many of which are available in electronic format – and support from trained library staff
- Access to Blackboard, our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), which is accessible via PC, laptop, tablet or mobile device
- Access to the MyBNU portal where you can access all University systems, information and news, record your attendance at sessions, and access your personalised timetable
- Academic Registry staff providing general guidance on University regulations, exams, and other aspects of students and course administration
- Central student services, including teams supporting academic skills development, career success, student finance, accommodation, chaplaincy, disability and counselling
- Support from the Bucks Students' Union, including the Students' Union Advice Centre which offers free and confidential advice on University processes.

9. Programme monitoring and review

BNU has several ways for monitoring and reviewing the quality of learning and teaching on your programme. You will be able to comment on the content of their programme via the following feedback mechanisms:

- Formal feedback questionnaires and anonymous module 'check-ins'
- Participation in external surveys
- Programme Committees, via appointed student representatives
- Informal feedback to your programme leader

Quality and standards on each programme are assured via the following mechanisms:

- An initial event to approve the programme for delivery
- An annual report submitted by the External Examiner following a process of external moderation of work submitted for assessment

- The Annual Monitoring process, which is overseen by the University's Education Committee
- Review by the relevant PSRB(s)
- Periodic Subject Review events held every five years
- Other sector compliance and review mechanisms

10. Internal and external reference points

Design and development of this programme has been informed by the following internal and external reference points:

- The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
- The QAA Subject Benchmark Statement – see detailed mapping below
- The QAA Master's Degree Characteristics Statement
- The BNU Qualifications and Credit Framework
- The BNU Grading Descriptors
- The University Strategy, Impact 2022

Mapping of Subject Benchmark Statement and any relevant Apprenticeship Standard to Programme Learning Outcomes

Subject Benchmark Statement / Apprenticeship Standard:	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)					Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)				
	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
Benchmark / Standard requirement																				

Mapping of Programme Learning Outcomes to Modules

Programme Learning Outcome	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)					Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)					
	Module Code (Core)	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
Level 7																					
Contemporary Issues in Law	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
International Human Rights Law	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X
International Commercial Law	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	
International Intellectual Property Law	X	X	X	X			X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Intellectual Property Law and Technology	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X
Electronic Commerce and Digital Trade	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X
International Law	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
International Commercial Dispute Resolution	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X				X			
Competition Law	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
International Trade	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				

Programme Learning Outcome	Knowledge and understanding (K)					Analysis and Criticality (C)					Application and Practice (P)					Transferable skills and other attributes (T)				
	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5
Structured Independent Work	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		